

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-10 ACDA-05 /078 W

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R 151440Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2821

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 2410

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR YO

SUBJ: YUGOSLAV COMMENT ON MAYAGUEZ SEIZURE

1. TANJUG (YUGOSLAV NEWS AGENCY) COMMENT DATEDINED
WASHINGTON USG ACTIONS RE MAYAGUEZ PRIOR TO RECOVERY
OF SHIP (CARRIED PROMINENTLY MAY 15 ON BOTH POLITIKA
AND BORBA) RECALLED "TONKIN GULF INCIDENT" AND
ATTRIBUTED DECISION TO ATTACK CAMBODIAN GUNBOATS TO
INFLUENCE OF REACTION.

2. ARTICLE SAID A "PRETEXT" FOR ACTION AGAINST
CAMBODIAN BOATS WAS CLAIM THAT THEY FIRED ON US PLANES,
AND STATED THIS "TO A CERTAIN EXTENT RECALLS THE TONKIN
GULF INCIDENT FROM 1964". ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY
"OFFICIAL AMERICAN VERSION" THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE FIRED
ON AMERICAN DESTROYERS IN FACT LATER WAS SHOWN TO BE
"AN EXCUSE FOR THE US ENTRY INTO THE WAR AGAINST
NORTH VIETNAM."

3. REFERRING TO CONFIRMATION BY WHITE HOUSE PRESS
SPOKESMAN THAT THE PRESIDENT "HAD OBTAINED CONGRESS-
IONAL SUPPORT", ARTICLE SAYS THIS MEANS THERE WERE
"SECRET CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE
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LEADERS OF CONGRESS"ABOUT WHICH THE PUBLIC

NOT INFORMED, AND THAT "THE VOICES OF THE RIGHT,
CLOTHED IN THE GARMENT OF NATIONAL PRESIGE AND
MORAL INDIGNATION, TIPPED THE BALANCE".

4. IN CONVERSATIONS MAY 15 WITH OFFICE FOR NORTH
AMERICA DEPUTY GRUBOR, POL COUNSELOR IN LOW KEY REGRETTDA
THESE COMMENTS AS OBNOXIOUS AND NOT IN KEEPING WITH
MAINTENANCE OF GOOD RELATIONS, AND EXPRESSED HOPE
THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE SUBSEQUENT COMMENT IN THIS
VEIN BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBLE DETRIMENTAL EFFECT IT
COULD HAVE.

MILLER

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Message Attributes

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